

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO MEMBERS OF ARMY AND NAVY WHO  
WERE EMPLOYED AS ENUMERATORS OF THE FOURTEENTH  
DECENNIAL CENSUS.

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DECEMBER 21, 1920.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state  
of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SIEGEL, from the Committee on the Census submitted the  
following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. J. Res. 410.]

The Committee on the Census reports House joint resolution 410, which authorizes payment to members of the Army and Navy who were employed as enumerators during the Fourteenth Decennial Census to take the census of persons in the Army and Navy, and recommends its passage.

As it appears from the letters written by the Director of the Census, it became necessary to employ officers and enlisted men of the Army and Navy as enumerators, and they were to be paid at the rate of 3 cents for each person enumerated. When the question of payment came up the Comptroller of the Treasury was asked by the disbursing clerk whether payment could be legally made. The comptroller decided on July 19, 1920, that payment was not authorized. The correspondence which ensued is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,  
Washington, November 18, 1920.

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE:

When arrangements were being made to take the census of persons in the military and naval service, it was absolutely necessary to employ officers and enlisted men of the Army and Navy as enumerators, and compensation at the rate of 3 cents for each person enumerated was promised. This arrangement was made after informally consulting some of the legal officials of the department. Upon receipt of the vouchers, however, it developed that it was necessary for the disbursing clerk to refer the matter to the Comptroller of the Treasury for a decision as to whether payment could be legally made. The comptroller in a decision under date of July 19, 1920, decided that payment of the vouchers in question was not authorized.

I believe the census of the Military Establishments was taken more accurately by promising the enumerators compensation than it would have been if taken under orders of the War Department.

2 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF ENUMERATORS OF THE CENSUS.

It is therefore recommended that this matter be referred to the solicitor with the request that he prepare a joint resolution authorizing payment to all members of the military and naval forces who acted as enumerators and that Congress be urged to pass such resolution promptly.

SAM. L. ROGERS, *Director*.

Respectfully referred to the Solicitor.

J. W. ALEXANDER,  
*Secretary of Commerce.*

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
Washington, November 26, 1920.

Memorandum for the secretary:

In re preparation of draft of proposed joint resolution authorizing payment to members of the military and naval forces who were employed as enumerators during the Fourteenth Decennial Census to take the census of persons in the military and naval services.

In accordance with the request contained in the attached letter from the Director of the Bureau of the Census, dated November 18, 1920, I have prepared and herewith transmit a draft of a proposed joint resolution authorizing payment to members of the military and naval forces who acted as enumerators during the Fourteenth Decennial Census.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANKLIN G. WIXSON, *Solicitor*.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,  
Washington, December 8, 1920.

HON. ISAAC SIEGEL,  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. SIEGEL: When arrangements were being made to take the census of persons in the military and naval services it was absolutely necessary to employ officers and enlisted men of the Army and Navy as enumerators, and compensation at the rate of 3 cents for each person enumerated was promised. Upon receipt of the vouchers, however, it developed that it was necessary for the disbursing clerk to refer the matter to the Comptroller of the Treasury for a decision as to whether payment could be legally made. The comptroller in a decision under date of July 19, 1920, decided that payment of the vouchers in question was not authorized.

I believe that the census of the Military Establishments was taken more accurately by promising the enumerators compensation than it would have been if taken under orders of the War Department.

I am transmitting herewith draft of a joint resolution authorizing payment to the enumerators of the military and naval forces, with the request that it be enacted into legislation at the earliest possible date. Vouchers in the sum of approximately \$2,000 have been received and are being held up by the disbursing clerk, and I feel quite sure that the total amount involved in the payment of the military and naval enumerators will not exceed \$5,000. In this connection I might state that this sum can be paid from the appropriation which the bureau now has available.

Very truly, yours,

SAM. L. ROGERS, *Director*.

The committee was unanimously of the opinion that no reason existed why the promise made by the Director of the Census to pay the service men 3 cents for each name enumerated should not be carried out.

It is but proper to call attention to the fact that the total amount to be expended for these payments does not exceed \$5,000, and that this sum can be paid from the appropriation which is available for that purpose. It does not require any new appropriation.

The copy of the resolution is as follows:

[H. J. Res. 410, Sixty-sixth Congress, third session.]

**JOINT RESOLUTION** To authorize payment to members of the Army and Navy who were employed as enumerators during the Fourteenth Decennial Census to take the census of persons in the Army and Navy.

Whereas it appears that in making an enumeration of persons in the Army and Navy for the Fourteenth Decennial Census, in the judgment of the Director of the Census it was impracticable to do otherwise than, with the official sanction of the Army and Navy, employ officers and enlisted men of the Army and Navy as enumerators, and that such officers and enlisted men were duly employed to make the enumeration and were promised compensation at the rate of 3 cents for each person enumerated; and

Whereas the vouchers for such compensation have been disallowed by the accounting officers of the Treasury Department on the ground that payment thereof was unwarranted; and

Whereas it further appears that in the judgment of the Director of the Census the census of the military and naval forces was taken more accurately by reason of the assurance of compensation to such enumerators than if it had been taken under orders of the War Department: Therefore be it

*Resolved, etc.,* That the appointment of such enumerators be, and the same is hereby, validated and that the moneys appropriated for the Fourteenth Decennial Census are hereby made available for the payment of their services as such enumerators.

